

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 /065 W

----- 067225

O R 071140Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3242

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMNAVTELCOM

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0301

JOINT AMCONGEN/NAVCOMMUNIT MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, ET, US

SUBJ: MOVEMENT OF U.S. PERSONNEL FROM TRACT "B"

TO TRACT ""E"

REF: A) STATE 32372; B) CINCUSNAVEUR 131414Z FEB 75

1. (C) SINCE REFS A & B WERE ISSUED, CHANGES IN TACTICAL SITUATION HAVE OCCURRED WHICH MAKE IT DESIRABLE AT PRESENT TO RELOCATE U.S. PERSONNEL FROM TRACT B TO TRACT E FOR LODGING.

SPECIFICALLY:

A. PARTIAL POWER HAS BEEN RESTORED TO CITY OF ASMARA FROM PORT OF MASSAWA WITHOUT KNOWN INTERDICTION BY INSURGENTS.

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B. ETHIOPIAN ARMY HAS EXPANDED SCOPE OF OPERATIONS AND GREATLY IMPROVED CONTROL IN ASMARA AND ENVIRONS. ALSO, A DEFENSIVE PERIMETER HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED 300-500 METERS WEST OF TRACT E, THE MOST VULNERABLE SIDE. NONE OF THIS IS CONSIDERED A PREVENTIVE TO SMALL UNIT HIT-AND-RUN ATTACKS BY INSURGENTS BUT DEFENSES HAVE DEFINITELY IMPROVED OVER THE LAST MONTH.

C. ETHIOPIAN ARMY HAS ESTABLISHED REGULAR FUEL CONVOYS TO MASSAWA WITHOUT KNOWN LOSSES IN PAST TWO WEEKS.

D. SHOULD INSURGENTS DESIRE TO ATTACK U.S. INSTALLATIONS FOR ANY REASON, E.G. PROVISION OF POWER TO ASMARA, TRACTS D AND B ARE MOST VULNERABLE AND TRACT E IS NOW BY FAR THE BEST DEFENDED. THE POWER PLANT AT TRACT E IS APPROX 250 METERS FROM THE NEAREST U.S. LIVING QUARTERS AND EVEN IF HIT, NO ADDITIONAL DANGER TO U.S. PERSONNEL WOULD ENSUE UNLESS LIVING QUARTERS ALSO SPECIFICALLY TARGETED.

E. ALTHOUGH FIERCE FIRE FIGHTS HAVE ERUPTED INVOLVING FIRING IN VICINITY OF TRACTS E, F, & B NO ROUNDS HAVE IMPACTED IN LIVING QUARTERS AT TRACT E. THIS IN CONTRAST TO OPERATIONS BUILDING AT TRACT B WHICH HAS BEEN STRUCK REPEATEDLY BY STRAY ROUNDS FROM THE VICINITY OF TRACTS E, F, AND EXPO.

F. USCINCEUR REP, CINCUSNAVEUR REP, AND OIC, NAVCOMMUNIT CONCUR IN ABOVE ASSESSMENT.

2. (U) AT PRESENT, ALL CISCO AND USN PERSONNEL LIVE AT OPERATIONS BUILDING, TRACT B (LESS SEVEN CISCO PERSONNEL AND ONE USN WHO LIVE IN TOWN) UNDER OPEN BARRACKS CONDITIONS. ONLY THE SHOWEBS CAN BE USED AT TRACT B AND THEN ONLY WHEN WATER PRESSURE IS HIGH, I.E. BEING PROVIDED FROM TRACT E WHICH HAS PROVEN INFREQUENT AT BEST. LACK OF SANITATION FACILITIES, PRIVACY, AND CLUB, BARBERSHOP, STORE, ETC (AVAILABLE AT TRACT E) HAS A DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON MORALE OF PERSONNEL AT TRACT B. AT PRESENT, FREQUENT TRIPS ARE REQUIRED FROM TRACT B TO TRACT E, THE CONSULATE, AND THE CITY TO COORDINATE OPERATIONS, CONDUCT PERSONAL BUSINESS, OBTAIN FOOD AND SUPPLIES, ETC. IF PERSONNEL WERE LOCATED AT TRACT E THE DISTANCE TRAVELED
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WOULD BE REDUCTED BY FOUR MILES PER TRIP AND THE NUMBER OF TRIPS WOULD BE REDUCED TO MORNING AND EVENING BUS RUNS TO RELIEVE THE WATCH AT TRACT B. OCCASIONAL SUPPLY RUNS TO B, ON DAYS WHEN THE MAAG AIRPLANE COMES IN, WOULD BE REQUIRED, OF COURSE.

3. (C) IF PERSONNEL ARE MOVED TO TRACT E THE FOLLOWING DISTRIBUTION WOULD RESULT:

A. DURING CURFEW: TRACT E - 7 USN, 10 CISCO, 3 PA & E;
TRACT B - WATCHSTANDERS 3 USN, 5 CISCO; TRACT D - 2 CISCO

B. DURING DAYLIGHT: NUMBERS WOULD VARY AS DICTATED BY OPERATIONS BUT COMINGS AND GOINGS THROUGH TRACT E GATE WOULD BE REDUCED.

4. (C) FOR REASONS ENUMERATED ABOVE, REQUEST THAT PROVISIONS OF REFERENCES GOVERNING LOW PROFILE OF U.S. PERSONNEL AT TRACT E BE RESCINDED AND AUTHORITY BE GRANTED TO PERMIT U.S. PERSONNEL TO MOVE TO TRACT E.
SHERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTRIC POWER, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASMARA00301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750080-0516
From: ASMARA JOINT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750374/aaaacofm.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 32372, 75 CINCUSNAVEUR 131414Z, 75 FEB 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOVEMENT OF U.S. PERSONNEL FROM TRACT "B" TO TRACT ""E"
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, ET, US, KAGNEW STATION
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006